

HIGHLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual meeting of Highley Parish Council was held on Tuesday 1st May 2018 at 7.00pm at the Severn Centre, Highley.

Present: Cllr. Court – Chair, Cllrs. A.Honeybourne, R.Honeybourne, D.Tremellen, M.Brooks, J. Marshall, D.Thakrar, N.Barker, D.Bayley, P.Atkinson, R.Broome, J.Law
Clerk: M.E. Preston
Parishioners: 0

00. Parishioners Time (15 minutes) - Speaking at a Meeting - You do not have the right to speak at a meeting unless invited to do so by the Council. If you wish to speak then you must contact the Clerk beforehand or make yourself known to the Clerk/Chair at the start of the meeting.

Declaration of any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting. Members are reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether the interest is entered in the register of member's interest maintained by the monitoring officer.

01. Election of Chair – *RESOLVED* Councillor G. Court be elected Chair

02. Election of Vice Chair – *RESOLVED* Cllrs. D.Thakrar and N.Barker be elected joint vice chairs.

03. Election of Committees – See enclosed sheet.

04. Apologies for absence. Cllr. D.Bache, Cllr. T.Holford Illness – *RESOLVED* to accept apologies

05. To confirm the minutes of the meetings dated 3rd April 2018. – Following amendment by Cllr. R.Honeybourne adding Footpath Rhea Hall/Vicarage Lane onto Matters Arising it was *RESOLVED* to accept the minutes and a true and correct record. Chair signed the minutes.

06. Matters Arising

Road Safety Schemes –

Barrier Repairs Ashleigh Gardens – Awaiting farther information

Severn Centre Crossing Point – Awaiting start date for scheme

Redstone Drive – This scheme to now take place in the next financial year 2018/2019

Problem Parking Areas – Woodhill Road, Main Road, High Street, Borle Brook Court, parking bays in the high street – awaiting a reply from Shropshire Council.

Castle Inn – The boarding on windows that had been reported as missing to Shropshire Council had still not been replaced. **RESOLVED** to write to Shropshire Council to ask them the Legal position of the building.

Footpath Vicarage Lane/Rhea Hall – Awaiting response from Shropshire Council regarding the footpath at the Rhea Hall end.

Skate/Park – Chair, Cllr. Court gave a report stating that a meeting was held with the Skate Park Group and Ramped, a company specialising in Skate boarding. Group discussed what they would like to see. Ramped to bring equipment over on the Fete Day for people to try out. Cllr D. Tremellen has agreed to fund this from the Chairman's Allowance. Another day planned for the Summer Holidays when they can bring out other ramps to find out what would be suitable for the area. This still to be arranged.

Youth Council – Cllr. Court reported on the Youth Council meeting held on the 24th April 2018. Attendees – 8 young people – some of the footballers were unavailable due to playing football that night.

Guests – Debbie Swales (Acting Severn Centre Manager), Ann O'Leary and Sue Eden (Local Policing Team) and Graham Oliver (Police Crime Commissioners Office).

Updates on Actions from last time –

- MUGA – Continuing to look at costs and speak to future users
- Skate Park – Ramped coming with demonstration gear to coach and run competitions on fete day (paid for from Parish Councils Chairman's Allowance) Group to fundraise alongside. Canvass coming to look at the possibilities for improving the skate park on 17th May
- Speakers around the pool – Debbie Swales explained about the cost of the licence but would look at doing it for fun hours.
- Dome – all there would be happy for it to go or for the panels to be made of clear Perspex or for there to be Perspex covers over the seats.
- Severn Centre Prices – No increases from last year and that included the swimming season tickets
- Vending Machine – A meeting with a vending company to see about a drink and a snacks machine is shortly to be held.
- Play park repairs – Zip wire needs tightening (Severn Centre may be able to do this) and swing seats need replacing. – Severn Centre to consider this.
-

New Issues

Pc Olearly asked about CCTV on the park and what the users thought. Everyone thought it would be reassuring to have it there. Highley Parish Council to look at including it to the CCTV grant application going to the Police Crime Commissioner. Graham Oliver asked the group what they thought about lighting on the park and the group took Graham to look at the current lighting and the skate park. There are two possible light columns there that could accommodate another light facing towards the skate park – this will be looked at for costing in conjunction to improvements to the park. Graham Oliver explained more about his role for the Police Crime Commissioner and found out more about the group and said that he wasn't aware of anything similar in Shropshire. He said that a funding pot had just been opened and that he would be happy to recommend that the group apply for up to

£1,000 towards the skate park improvements. He gave PC O'leary the application form to complete. Id badges for the Youth Council to be produce for use when on official council business. Severn Centre to look for space for a Youth Council notice board.

CCTV – Cllr. Court said a meeting had been held with Shropshire Council/Police/Technical Services. Cllr. Court reported that areas of concern had been identified. Tech Services to look at these areas with a view to giving a quotation. Shropshire Council to help with filling out the Grant application form for the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Severn Centre Advisory Board Meeting – Notes Emailed to all Councillors for any comments.

07. Correspondence

SALC – April Bulletin

Shropshire Council Environmental Maintenance Grant Programme consultation

West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner Consultation Survey

Telford and Wrekin defend our NHS Group Local Health Services – a joint meeting with other LJC areas to be held.

Shropshire Council – Severn Valley Country Park Events

Shropshire Council – Town and Parish Forum meeting 21st May 2018

Shropshire Council – Community Transport Schemes consultation.

Highley Primary School invited the Chair and Clerk to attend the opening of the new playground equipment at Highley School.

A parishioner wrote to the Parish Council with his concerns regarding parking in the village centre. AGENDA for next meeting for discussion on parking restrictions in village centre.

08. Planning

18/01547/FUL – Change of use of a ground floor flat to cafe with associate alterations, extension for a seating area and disabled toilet and improvements of the existing access to a disabled access – Silverdale House, Silverdale Terrace. **RESOLVED NO OBJECTIONS**

18/01653 – To fell 1 Hawthorn, 1 Elder and 1 Ash within conservation area. – **RESOLVED NO OBJECTIONS**

18/01462/FUL – Erection of extension to provide additional accommodation in the bedrooms and lounge/kitchen – 18 Top Field, Severnside Highley – Following discussion is being **RESOLVED NO OBJECTIONS**. Provided all materials used are sympathetic to the area. Objected Cllr. Broome, and Cllr. Brooks.

Planning Decision

Proposed Replacement dwelling at site of 3 Cherry Orchard, Severnside, Highley – **Grant permissions**

09. GDPR Regulations

RESOLVED to adopt Privacy Policies, Personal Data Management Policy, Audit Policy, and Subject Access Policy. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk, E.Preston be confirmed as the Compliance Officer. All Councillors given Memory Cards to store Parish Council information. All Councillors now to have dedicated email addresses for the Parish Council.

10. Highley Carnival

Request for funding for Bunting for Carnival Day. **AGENDA NEXT MEETING**

11. Shropshire Councillors Report – Cllr.Tremellen reported as follows:-

Delivering my report to the Highley Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 24th April, I had an overwhelming sense of Deja vu because the opening sentence to last year's report said...

"We're all aware that the major frustration has been the state of our roads, the access roads into both ends of the village and the road between here and Bridgnorth, but after months of discussion with Highways it looks as if we might at last see action to get things sorted..."Twelve months ago, I also mentioned the success of the campaign to establish a 20 mph safety zone around the school and how it had been designed to exceed all our expectations. In 2017 it was all going to happen.

But then it all went pear-shaped as 2017 progressed, when it was confirmed that the funding for the desperately needed works I had been assured were in the programme for October (ironically put back from the original plans for September) 2017 had been re-allocated to a scheme outside Idsall School in Shifnal. I was assured that it was only a postponement of our programme of works, which would merely be shifted into the "new financial year".

I was angry, of course I was angry, because I'd argued for our road schemes for over four years (others had campaigned for a safety zone outside the school for a lot longer than that, including the children of Highley Primary who had made a superb presentation to Shropshire Council's safety officer) and a lot of work had gone into their planning, not to mention a lot of very expensive officer and consultant time!

Earlier this year I was given assurances by the portfolio holder for highways, doubtless based on what he'd been told by the Highways, Transport and Environmental Manager at Shirehall, that Highley's postponed work would be amongst the first contracts given to Keir when they took over as Shropshire Council's main highways contractor at the start of April.

I should have known something was up when I got no response to my chasing up on those assurances. My fears were confirmed when I learned – and indirectly at that - a few days ago that the only programme of works scheduled for this financial year DID NOT INCLUDE HIGHLEY. The extent of the 2018/2019 Highways programme on the B4555 Bridgnorth to Highley road was at Knowle Sands!

In my report to the Annual Parish Meeting I wondered whether the recent removal by Shropshire Council's Cabinet of £5 million from the highways budget at the February meeting of Shropshire Council included Highley's work and now I know. Simple answer? Yes.

The supreme irony is that last year, just before the local elections in May, Malcolm Pate, the THEN Leader of Shropshire Council's Conservative group (very soon after ousted by Peter

Nutting, the current Leader), declared in the Shropshire Star that if the people of Shropshire voted his party back into power they would spend £21 million on the country's road network. I'm on record as wondering at the time whether the date of that article, April 1st, was significant.

Given Peter Nutting's plans for a further £5 million tranche of cuts to the Highways budget in 2019, and given what I had confirmed about Highley's absence in the highways maintenance programme for 2019, I'm planning a concerted campaign to keep Highley's (and Chelmarsh and Eardington's) roads in the spotlight. I've already recruited an ex-traffic cop to help with that campaign.

Now, what came through today was this letter, written yesterday, probably in response to my kicking off to both Peter Nutting and Steve Davenport. (I've edited it to fit and added italics and bold sections as highlight.)

Date: 30th April 2018

Shropshire Council's Highways and Transport capital budget is to be reduced by £5m in each of the next two financial years. This reduction is to support Shropshire Council in meeting its savings targets, which are as a result of reduced central Government funding and also recognise the pressure on Adult Social Care budgets.

This means that a number of planned highways improvement schemes scheduled to be carried out in 2018/19 and 2019/20 will now be deferred until 2020/21 at the earliest, including the following Integrated Transport scheme in your area:

- ⑩ Redstone Drive School Safety Scheme
- ⑩ B4555 Severn Centre Traffic Calming

Our aim continues to provide safe and well-maintained roads across the county, whilst supporting other council services. To achieve these savings we have therefore carefully considered and prioritised, in consultation with our contractors.

The integrated Transport capital budget typically funds schemes derived from Shropshire Councils Road Safety Policy (both accident led schemes and **community led road safety concerns**) as well as signal enhancements, sustainable transport initiatives and bus shelter grants. The reduction in budget means that the focus of this capital programme of work will now be accident data led schemes, post-scheme safety reviews and developer led schemes for the forthcoming two financial years.

Inspections, repairs, and maintenance work funded through the highways revenue budget will be unaffected and all defects identified or reported, including potholes, will continue to be repaired in accordance with our policy.

At the appropriate time, the budget reduction will be reviewed with a plan to reinstate the full capital budget for the 2020 /20-21 financial year.

12. Finance:

M.E. Preston	Salary	£919.43
H.M.Customs	Tax & N.I.	£67.63
N. Power	Street Lights	£2418.29
Viking Direct	Stationery	£143.92
Dixons Retail	Laptop	£378.99
Severn Centre Trust	Room Hire	£38.40
Shropshire Council	Hagg Corner Allotment Land	£35.00
M.E. Preston	Expenses Stamps/Petrol	£50.00
Information Solutions	Website Hosting	£228.00
Eon	Street Light Station Road	£120.00
Eon	Street Light Oak Street	£114.80
M.E. Preston	DRB Check	£25.00
Eon	Street Light Station Road	£178.68
USB2U	Memory Cards	£207.30

Meeting closed 8.55pm

Signed

Date: